(e) the details of the status of this matter and relevance and utility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) No, Sir. However, National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad has a Centre for Agrarian Studies & Disaster Mitigation which *inter-alia* develops training capabilities and examines issues in the field of disaster mitigation.

(b) The Centre functions within NIRD.

(c) There is no new body. However, the existing Centre has a team of qualified and experienced faculty supported by a pool of experts in various subjects like applications of GIS and remote sensing, natural resource management and environment, local government administration, micro-planning etc. available from other Centres of the Institute.

(d) The Centre is a part of the NIRD and does not have separate funding.

(e) NIRD is an autonomous organization at national level for training, research, action research, etc. in the field of rural development and poverty alleviation. As the disasters comprise an important factor affecting the development process, NIRD is conducting several training programmes, workshops, seminars and studies in the area of disaster management.

**Community based disaster management at the Gram Panchayat level**

4471. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) had suggested to the Government the community based disaster management on the Gram Panchayat level because it was only the community that provide help in crucial initial hours;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said Institute had also suggested different strategies for common calamities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Committee to study on development in rural areas**

4472. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government set up a committee to study as to how to make development in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) Ministry of Rural Development have not set up any Committee to study as to how to make development in rural areas. The programmes of poverty alleviation and rural development of the Ministry are being implemented with the active involvement of rural people at the grass-root level and the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). The Ministry has also put in place a mechanism to collect requisite inputs which are used from time to time for effective policy interventions.

**EGS**

†4473. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether only rural people living below the poverty line are benefited under the Employment Guarantee Scheme;

(b) whether Government are considering to include all the unemployed persons under cover of this scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) The National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill, 2004, introduced in Parliament on

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.